

THE DIAMOND

Concert Choir tour: ain't no sickness can hold them down

Haemi Kim -- Staff Writer

During winter break, Dordt College Concert Choir and its conductor Ryan Smit went on a tour, sharing their talents to many different audiences. It was a week-long tour going around Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

Many of the choir students enjoyed being on tour because it was an opportunity to meet other choir members and build relationships with other choir members.

“It’s a unique opportunity to get to know the other choir members outside of the choir room,” said senior soprano Kourtney TeBrake.

“Before tour, you recognize people in the choir, maybe know their names, but when you spend a week traveling in a charter bus with 52 other people... you get to know each other real well,” said senior soprano Jalyn Vander Wal.

“Coming into Concert Choir for the first time, as sophomores, we kind of feel like we don’t really belong to the Concert Choir because those who were in before all knew each other and bonded in previous tours,” said sophomore Yovela Belicia, “but then through the tour, you feel like you become more part of the group.”

The bonding did not end just within the choir but expanded through experiences the choir had with the different churches and host families.

“It was great getting to meet new people on the road, especially some of the host families who were so generous and kind, opening their homes to us,” said senior tenor Daniel Seaman. “I definitely look forward to the host families because there’s always stories we get from that.”

“The hospitality that the host families showed



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us—the people they had never met—was such a blessing,” said sophomore soprano Kate Lodewyk.

One particularly memorable song, “Ain’t No Grave Can Hold My Body Down,” included sign language. Vander Wal, standing in front, took charge of signing while the choir joined in during the chorus. Then, almost at the end of the song, the whole choir became silent, singing only in sign language before coming in strong

with their voices again to finish the piece. The music itself called for sign language.

“I loved how the composer thought that this would be a unique take on an African American Spiritual,” said Vander Wal. She has been signing for about seven years since high school for her foreign language class.

“I really like sign language because it can be an art or it can be practical with deaf people,” said Vander Wal. “I think it is awesome that we

could incorporate this beautiful language into our piece. I loved the excitement on people’s faces in the audience—or fear among the high schoolers—when we did this song and I had people at almost every stop come up to me afterwards and thank me for it.”

Even though the choir tour was a blast to many of the choir members, this year, the stomach flu spread within the choir, affecting around 14 students, and even the conductor during their last concert before coming back. Because of this, TeBrake and Seaman stepped up to conduct the last concert, each taking half of the performance.

As music education majors, it wasn’t their first time conducting for a choir. Both of them had opportunities to conduct in Lab Choir, as well as for different Dordt music classes. Seaman also mentioned that he had opportunities to conduct for his church and high school.

“I loved being up on the podium and seeing everyone signing,” said TeBrake. “They were happy for Daniel and me, as well. Being in front of a powerful choir was absolutely amazing and gave me goosebumps.”

Minus the sickness, choir members had a great time during the tour and shared their experiences with excitement.

“There is something about being able to make beautiful music with a very talented group of individuals,” said Lodewyk. “Singing is an expression of worship and being a part of that is truly a blessing. My favorite part of every concert came right at the end, singing Praise to the Lord... as the close of our concert... I think that tradition reminds us why we sing: to bring praise to the Lord.”

Rec Center gets a makeover

Sawyer Strelnieks -- Staff Writer



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During winter break, the Dordt Recreation Center—or the Rec Center—got a fresh look and rearrangement of its facilities while students were off campus on winter vacation.

Students returning to campus were welcomed by a newly renovated Rec Center with a new athlete weight room. The old sports weight room was converted into a community weight room. All the equipment from the weight room next to the track was moved to the new community weight room and students had to say goodbye to “muscle beach.” The space next to the track is currently being transitioned into an aerobic fitness center.

With Rise Gymnastics opening up this past fall in Sioux Center, all the gymnastics equipment

that was in the Rec Center got moved out.

“Our situation before this transition consisted of one weight room shared by athletics, community and general students,” lifting coach Kyle Van Wyk said. “This often resulted in a balance that often felt tricky to manage on both ends of the spectrum.”

Once the gymnastics equipment was moved out, this freed up space for a new sports team weight room. They began with painting the gymnastics room and moving workout equipment out of the old workout room and into the new athlete weight room.

The new space created for Dordt athletes brought a lot of positive feedback from athletes

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Dordt instructor challenges Steve King for Congress

Tess Hemmila -- Staff Writer, and Spencer Short - Guest Writer

For the first time in 16 years, a big change may be coming to Sioux County. Dordt College faculty member and lifetime Sioux County resident, state Senator Randy Feenstra, has announced his intention to run for the Iowa Representative District Four seat.

In early January, Feenstra made known his plans to run against long-time incumbent Representative Steve King in the 2020 race. His announcement came shortly after King made insensitive comments about white supremacy and botched a Martin Luther King Jr. Day tribute on Twitter.

Feenstra has served as an Iowa State Senator for District 2 for ten years and he is currently in his third term. If elected, Feenstra will have to give up his position as a state senator which will result in a special election to fill Feenstra’s seat.

The issues Feenstra has identified as most important are agriculture and simplifying the federal tax code to make it easier for the general public to understand. He hopes this will help keep the money of the people in their own pockets rather than in the hands of big government.

“I am very passionate about hearing what the voters want and focusing on what the people of the fourth district need,” Feenstra said.

The Northwest corner of Iowa is ranked the #1 agricultural district in the entire world, according to Feenstra. If elected as a representative of the fourth district, Feenstra says being on the Congressional Agricultural Board would be a necessity for him.

Feenstra also wishes to be on the Ways and Means Committee in Congress, the organization that works on national tax code and policy. In 2018, Feenstra and other members of the Iowa Senate Ways and Means Committee passed some of the largest tax cuts in Iowa history.

In addition to his political career, Feenstra has taught at Dordt College for ten years: eight years as an adjunct instructor and two years as an Instructor of Business Administration. Feenstra teaches a variety of business and political science classes at Dordt.

Despite positive feedback Feenstra has received, not everyone is impressed with Randy Feenstra’s run. Current head of Dordt College Republicans, sophomore Tyler Bouma, believes Steve King will continue to be the best choice for northwest Iowa.

“It’s not completely surprising that someone is trying to run against Steve King with all the national controversy he’s been embroiled in... but I think the only reason that [big agriculture] wants Feenstra to run is for more corporate welfare,” said Bouma.

Wheels on the ground for Dordt media network

Emma Stoltzfus-- Staff Writer



Photo by Aaron's Lenz

It's the Dordt v. Northwestern men and women's basketball games on Jan. 23. While the players dribble the ball back and forth on the court in De Witt gym, there's another team in play.

The Dordt Media Network is officially on the scene this semester. The DMN is putting together a student-driven broadcast team whose goal is to cover events such as chapel services, concerts, or sports games.

Tonight, the plain, blocky truck is parked on the North side of the De Witt gym. Students on the crew are split into two groups: operating cameras courtside and managing the broadcast itself from the truck. They rotate roles between games, and each learn how to do the different tasks required to put together the broadcast.

Jonah Bader is a freshman computer science major. It's his second day working with the DMN. Today he's learning how to manually change the score on the banner shown on the broadcast. Each time a shot is made, Bader taps his keyboard a few times and the new score is projected over the broadcast.

Inside the truck it's a little cramped. While there's room enough to stand and several chairs to sit in, more than a couple people moving around the van at a time requires some maneuvering.

Each screen—be it attached to the wall or on a computer sitting close at hand—displays one of the four different camera feeds, previews of the broadcast, or the currently broadcasted images.

Sitting in the back of the truck, one can see the game from a variety of different angles through the screens. The announcer giving play-by-plays and the chanting of the crowd is heard through a set of speakers near the ceiling.

Rich Lodewyk, director of the DMN, gives a nearly constant litany of instructions and suggestions through the headset as he switches the feed from one camera to another.

"Ready on one? Take one. Camera two, pull out of it. That's getting a little tight. There you go. Ready on two? Take two."

Bader grabs a sandwich from a tin-foil-

covered plate Lodewyk's wife put together for the crew. While the half a dozen or so students come from a mix of different majors, years, and experience levels, they've become a team and are learning the process together.

"It's like a little family in there." Bader describes.

Colton Ott, a sophomore electrical engineering student, is in the truck working on recording replays. He has to obtain a good recording and be careful when playing it so as to not miss the real-time action.

"It's a work in progress." said Ott as they review a shot that just barely missed the action.

Both basketball games last around two hours each, but the fast pace both on and off the court keep the time moving. By halftime the broadcast has over eight-hundred viewers.

"Once more unto the breach." Ott quotes as Lodewyk calls the crew to get ready for the second half of the game.

While Northwestern defeated Dordt in both basketball games that afternoon, the Dordt Media Network team packed up their gear and congratulated each other on a job well done.

"The students are doing a great job," Lodewyk says, "It's great to see all the hard work they're putting in and their eagerness to learn and get better...As a faculty member, it's really neat to see."



Photo by Aaron's Lenz

Congress welcomes a diverse crew in 2019

Danielle Schultz -- Staff Writer



Photo by Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg Associated Press

To kick off 2019, the newest members of the 116th Congress, especially those of the House, set several ground-breaking records in terms of diversity.

While the Senate welcomed 10 new members, the House of Representatives welcomed 101. Among those 101 representatives were the first two Native American congresswomen, the first Muslim congresswoman, and the first Palestinian American congresswoman. A total of 24 people of color were elected in midterm elections, according to the New York Times.

Moreover, 42 women were elected to Congress, with females making up more than 60 percent of newly elected House members for the Democrat Party. As a result, the 116th Congress has the most racially diverse and female group ever elected to the House.

Historically, Congress has been white, male, and partisan. The increased diversity of the 116th Congress brings many benefits. Because its members more closely match the changing demographics of the United States, Congress is more likely to accurately represent minority groups in government.

According to Forbes, "diversity improves decision making" by preventing biases and providing alternative solutions or perspectives on issues. Different perspectives, in turn, initiate cognitive diversity, or the "diversity of ideas," as Dordt junior Nate Muyskens called it.

"I like that there are more people who are willing to look outside the traditional Republican and Democrat stamped policy labels," said Muyskens on the new Congress.

Diversity can also lead to a better handling of ethical dilemmas and promote the concept of common good, in which everyone's interests are considered. One thing for new members

to look out for, however, is assimilation. If the differences diversity brings to the table get swallowed up by the mainstream political process, there is little benefit from them.

"You want a certain sense of unity...but if it all just gets kind of put into the blender...in the end if that has no bearing on how they vote or how they see legislation, then I don't know how it's going to make that much of a difference," said Dr. Jeff Taylor, a political science professor at Dordt.

Even if members of Congress succeed in maintaining their individual values and beliefs, Dordt junior Amanda Davies anticipates that "it's going to be harder for people to reach common ground with more ground to cover."

For Congress to be successful, its members must be willing to find common ground by listening to contrary viewpoints and establishing a trust among party members.

Overall, the diversity of the 116th Congress should act as an encouragement to anyone who wants to become involved in the political process. Not only can the House boast of racial diversity and a large female presence, but also several young voices, according to Taylor.

While both the Democratic and Republican parties have traditionally been dominated by older people, a number of newly elected members are in their late 20s this year.

Here at Dordt, a campus dominated by the Christian faith, it is easy to remain disconnected from politics that do not pertain to our faith. But, as Taylor said, while Congress is not largely becoming Christian, "we should still be glad for our neighbor that the system is becoming inclusive."

Dordt practices for disaster

Evangeline Colarossi -- Staff Writer

SB 1606 was converted to a War Room: Incident Command last Thursday evening. Thirty-five community members and Dordt campus officials met to hold a tornado drill. This drill was not for students, but for those in charge of emergency actions and responsible to ensure safety and take the correct precautions.

Dordt's Cabinet Response Team, various staff, and maintenance members took part in this drill. From the community, representatives of Sioux Center Fire and Police attended, along with Nathan Huizinga, the County Emergency Manager. Howard Wilson and Professor Donald Roth headed up most of the drill, though all involved participated with varying amounts of

responsibility.

For two hours, the emergency teams switched jobs, designated tasks and solved even the most unlikely of issues, from social media disasters to fielding a barrage of phone calls from concerned parents. The teams prepared for everything and lacked nothing. A common phrase through the training was "focus on the worst first." Though this was only a drill, the exercise was taken very seriously.

Participants received slips of paper with tasks on them. These tasks designated a job that needed to be overseen by the person with the paper. If that person was asked to help with a different job, they needed to find someone else to take over their task. This ensured that people were covering all needed areas, yet if they

needed more hands in a certain area, there were others available to help.

Some aspects of the drill were expected: If a building was destroyed, they needed to account for any possible missing or injured persons. In an actual situation, the teams would need to handle this task with many others at the same time. Unexpected scenarios would be shouted out to keep the team members alert and help them develop the ability to respond quickly and wisely to things they would not expect.

The last drill like this occurred four years ago, when an active dorm fire and active shooter simulation took place. Over 80 hours of planning went into this drill, which could have been more in depth had time allowed.

"It's our hope to start to go through

preparedness exercises of some variety on amore regular basis," said Roth. Dordt has a book of policies and plans for numerous critical situations but having to practice those plans actively is a crucial task.

"Plans rarely survive long into an actual emergency unless they are both deeply ingrained into the responders and carefully calibrated to the needs of that crisis," said Roth. Drills test the strengths and weaknesses of each plan and require the response teams to learn these plans, rather than read them from a book.

"Simulations like this tabletop exercise are one way to further both of these goals without having to wait to learn from painful experience," said Roth.

A week to prepare: NISO’s “Piano Dreamer” concert

Erika Buiter -- Staff Writer



Photo by Daniel Ver Steeg

Monday, January 21, 2019 – 7:15 p.m. Musicians trickle into Dordt’s B.J. Haan auditorium, cases and music in hand. The stage fills with college players, high school students, and adults. Chatter, tuning, and laughter intermingle into a cacophonous racket—and then Jennifer Frens, violinist and concert mistress, stands.

7:30 p.m. Like every NISO rehearsal, they tune three As, one for brass and woodwinds, one for cellos and bass, and one for violins and violas.

Unlike every NISO rehearsal, there are only 120 hours left until their next concert.

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra’s pops concert, “Piano Dreamer,” features the music of Jan Mulder, a Dutch pianist. Most NISO concerts require months of preparation, but, with Mulder absent, tonight is the orchestra’s first of two chances to practice together for the concert.

Parks Brawand, freshman violinist in NISO, first picked up a violin at age 4. A three-time South Dakota All-State Orchestra participant, Brawand arrived at Dordt with symphony experience.

“I played in SDSU’s symphony orchestra all four years of high school,” Brawand said. “NISO’s music is quite similar.”

Though surprised by the preparation time for the concert, Brawand enjoyed the experience.

“It’s kind of nice. For that first rehearsal, people are probably more focused and we get through a lot more because we have to prepare,” Brawand said. “I was really impressed. I like how high [in note range] a lot of our parts for the first violin go. They’re great renditions of some of my favorite hymns.”

The pieces picked include Mulder’s arrangements of Christian hymns and two original compositions—“Ocean of Dreams” and “Ocean of Dreams II.” Also in the black leather-bound folders were Aaron Copland’s “Variations on a Shaker Melody” and Christian Krien’s “In Holland, Suite for Small Orchestra, IV. Wooden Shoe Dance.”

“I enjoyed [Mulder’s] Deer Symphony. I find a lot of his arrangements are going to be playable for us, but I think they’re going to be really rich-sounding with the pianist,” said Kirbee Nykamp. A 2008 Dordt alumna and

violin teacher, Nykamp is in her 14th year with NISO.

“I think it’s fun that so many of these pieces are ones that this community in particular knows well,” Nykamp said.

Each title brings its own baggage – sudden key changes, difficult rhythms, and notes that soar high on the page. But with winter weather threatening and several pieces yet un-played, it is up to the players to perfect the mistakes before Saturday. Stanichar dismisses the symphony at 9:30 sharp—118 hours left until the concert.

A “fun” fundraiser

Beginning in 1986, NISO first played two concerts a year, adding the pops concert later to fill the area’s need for music.

“There used to be a concert series in Sioux Center called the Sioux County Concert Series, and there was a board, and it was entirely outside performers, and that was waning,” said Dr. Karen De Mol, professor emerita. “As that waned, that board asked NISO to take over some of that role.”

De Mol played as NISO’s principal clarinetist for 24 years. Today, she serves as its general manager and music director, helping behind-the-scenes. And, to keep NISO alive, fundraising is a necessity.

The pops concert functions as musical event and fundraiser, with guest conductors competing to take Stanichar’s podium. The winner, chosen by monetary votes, will conduct the “Wooden Shoe Dance.” The “fun” comes in with the winner’s costume—and conducting device.

“I remember Dr. Rens, who conducted with some sort of medical implement that I didn’t want to know what it was,” De Mol said. “And Josh Bowar, from the Sioux Center Christian School, all painted in yellow and blue. And bacon! They have so much fun with it.”

The conductor contest is one of NISO’s largest fundraisers. “It is a significant part of our budget,” De Mol said. “It varies a lot, from \$6,000 a year to \$16,000, I think was the most.”

But behind the fundraising, the concert hopes to attract people for its music.

“My favorite thing about the pops concerts is how accessible the music is to people who are perhaps less connected to the classical world,” Nykamp said. “The concert material is shorter,

so it’s easier for people to stay engaged and excited about what they’re hearing.”

The final rehearsal

On Saturday, January 26, NISO convenes on stage. It is 2:30 p.m. Five hours left. Already, there are problems.

“Wooden Shoe Dance,” is pulling apart. Stanichar paces the auditorium as the orchestra plays.

After, he reminds the woodwinds that they are rushing. With no steady percussion beat—or conductor—to fall back on, the symphony orchestra has to rely on each other to stay in tempo.

The guest conductor, Stanichar reminds the orchestra, there will be distractions. Last year featured Nathan Frens dressed as bacon. This year, it could be anything—so they practice the piece again.

And then it is time for Jan Mulder to take the stage.

Tall, curly-haired and serious, Mulder’s speech is inflected with a thick Dutch accent.

His son, an even taller carbon-copy of Mulder, darts around the auditorium, listening for imbalance between the piano and the orchestra.

“I was really impressed by his artistry and skill,” said Karissa Van Surksun, Dordt senior and trumpeter in NISO. “I also thought he communicated meaning and depth, like he truly cherished the songs he was playing, through his performance. He was a great soloist to work with—very relaxed and easy to work with, as well as very talented.”

For two hours, NISO perfects the pieces. Stanichar restarts beginnings of pieces that are not up to scratch. Mulder adds a new musical flourish on the second run-through of a piece. The orchestra’s sound buries the piano’s, bringing the possibility of mic’ing Mulder, but Stanichar decides the orchestra can be quieter.

At 4:30 p.m., with three hours till the concert, Stanichar asks Mulder if he needs anything else. “Coffee,” Mulder says.

NISO Presents “Piano Dreamer”

7:15 p.m. 15 minutes left. The word spreads between players – mutes on for all songs, a last-second decision by Stanichar. For strings, this means wedging a piece of rubber on the bridge of their instrument. For brass and woodwinds, hands and other devices keep their sound quiet.

Above, students fill in the balcony. Below, the guest conductors sit in the pews.

7:30 p.m. Stage lights up, auditorium lights down. It’s concert time.

NISO’s board members introduce the conductor candidates—Steve Grond, a school superintendent, Nancy Landegent, a receptionist, and T.J. Speer, a banker. The fourth, Katicia Meendering, is absent, attending a family funeral.

Reminding the audience to spend their dollars to vote for their favorite, the board members leave the mic. Frens plays an A. The orchestra tunes.

And then, silence.

A side-door creaks open. Stanichar power walks to the podium as the orchestra stands in unison. Applause lingers in the air. Unseen by the audience, Stanichar points three fingers down like an “M,” reminding the orchestra to use their mutes.

Stanichar flicks the baton up—and the concert begins.

After “Variations on a Shaker Melody,” Mulder joins the orchestra. His shiny shoes gleam under the lights, patterned-suit and dark shirt setting him apart from the orchestra’s tuxes, white shirts, and dresses. Simple and serious, he touches the keys of piano with familiarity.

The first half speeds by with applause and bows by Mulder. Despite the last-minute mutes, the orchestra overpowers the piano in “The Glory”—but then the lights go up.

Intermission.

Attendees swarm the lobby to buy chocolate truffles and “vote” for the conductor candidates. Fifteen minutes later, the lights flash. The orchestra returns to the stage, the pews fill, and a board member takes the mic—the count is in.

With \$6,725 raised in total, the fundraiser is a modest success. But the contest winner? T.J. Speer, dressed in suit and tie. He takes the podium, raising a golf club’s head cover.

At a nod from Frens, they begin. Speer waves his cover at random while the orchestra diligently ignores him, playing at a steady tempo – a near-miracle, given the issues they faced less than five hours ago.

“That was harder than I thought it would be,” Speer says, walking off the stage. The concert proceeds with few issues and several standing ovations. Before the last encore, Mulder takes the mic.

“It is an honor to be here in Iowa for the first time,” Mulder says. “I came to this beautiful country ten years ago and started in Holland, Michigan, with the wooden shoes and tulips, so that was very nice, but when the snow comes, it is like this high—” Mulder gestures near his forehead. “—for like 6 months, so you can’t do a lot of concerts.” Eliciting laughter, Mulder describes moving to too-hot Florida and then North Carolina. Finally, “It is an honor to be here with this beautiful orchestra, fantastic conductor,” Mulder says.

Returning to the piano for one last song –“Ocean of Dreams II” – the concert ends on a high note—literally. The lights go up. Pews empty. Instruments are packed away.

“I thought the Saturday concert went pretty well, especially considering that we only spend about four and a half hours practicing for it, and only two with the soloist,” Van Surksun said.



Photo by Erika Buiter

(cont.) Rec Center gets a makeover

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and coaches.

“The student-athletes marvel at how much more space is available to perform their training,” Van Wyk said. “Possibly the thing I am most pleased with is that this project has been done very stewardly, while also being a noticeable upgrade from our previous space and situation.”

Student athletes have access to this weight room and an open plyometric area next door.

Many students who do not participate in athletics but are involved with maintaining a healthy lifestyle have a space that is open to them at all times now, and don’t need to

worry about lifting around the team workout schedules.

Students that regularly lift are both pleased and slightly disappointed with the new arrangement.

“Being a non-athlete, I no longer have access to a squat rack that gives enough room to comfortably preform squats,” sophomore Keegan Morren said. “It gets pretty crowded from 4 to 6 in the afternoon especially, but I have been able to use the facilities then, when before it was nearly impossible to find room to do anything during those times.”

Students and other community members that regularly use the weight room are looking for a

workout area with more squat racks and access to the athlete’s weight room when a team is not scheduled to use it.

Community members question the number of plyometric boxes in the community workout room that are rarely used and take up a lot of space. Moving these boxes to a different location, such as the plyometric area by the sports weight room would free up space for more workout equipment, such as squat racks or more free weights.

“Another better option for satisfying theses needs would be to allow non-athletes access to the weight room when teams are not using it,” said Morren. “Last semester, non-athletes

had access to everything and now are limited to what was in muscle beach.”

Renovations are still not finished in the Rec Center, according to Van Wyk. The rec center is still expecting to reconfigure the community weight room to include more free weights. The athletics weight room is expecting to add another squatting rack, two more glute-ham raise machines and new graphics to put up on the walls. Muscle beach is transitioning into an aerobics space that will have new equipment installed.

Dordt theatre competes in Sioux Falls

Zach Steensma -- Staff Writer

Every year, Dordt College puts on a number of theatrical productions. But what many play goers don’t realize is that even after the last bows have been taken and the final set pieces have been torn down, many shows go on to be nominated in a wide variety of categories, from acting and stage management to costume, make-up, lighting and sound design.

Last week, 21 Dordt students traveled to compete at the 51st annual American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota—a regional conference put on by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts—that invites participating schools from across the Midwest.

The conference gives students the opportunity to win awards, receive recognition for their work and move on to the national festival.

This year, 11 Dordt students (dubbed “Ryans”) attended the festival to compete in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition, after being nominated for performances in shows from the past year, including “Eurydice,” “Lilies On The Land,” “My Fair Lady,” and “Walk Two Moons” The competition allows nominees, along with their scene partners, to showcase their acting abilities for judges.

Students involved in design can also submit and present their work for critique and awards. This year, Dordt freshman Demetrius Rowser

won two awards for his sound design and stagecraft work for Dordt’s most recent production, “Walk Two Moons.”

“I was very surprised; I wasn’t expecting to win anything with my first design ever. When they initially called my name I wasn’t even paying attention,” Rowser said. “At the same time, I was very excited. It’s promising as to what the future might hold for me in theatre. The best part for me was seeing other departments and the work they put in.”

In addition, Dordt sent five costumes from this fall’s production of “My Fair Lady” as entries in the festival’s costume parade, allowing costume designers to display their work for other schools and professionals.

“When the show is produced, you send in five photos of costumes that you would like to submit, either self-nominated or nominated by respondents,” said Dordt junior Katherine Fictorie, who assistant costume designed for “My Fair Lady” and presented her work at the festival. “It’s a chance for the designers and the school to showcase some of the best costume work they’ve done.”

Beyond competitions, students who attend have a variety of opportunities to participate in workshops, covering everything from playwriting to stage combat to dancing.

Dordt junior Zach Dirksen took part in a long-form improvisational theater workshop, where an auditioned group of students got to work on



Photo by Demetrius Rowser

techniques, build confidence and showcase their skills.

“I auditioned for the improv workshop on Tuesday, then they sorted us into groups to figure out chemistry, and for the rest of the week we worked together with our groups, discussing and practicing different forms of long-form improv,” Dirksen said. “At the end of the week, we had a long-form improv showcase where all four groups performed and my team ended up winning. I really bonded with my group while working together, and it was a lot of fun.”

The week is also a chance for students to see featured invited productions from other schools and explore Sioux Falls.

“My favorite was going to the shows, because

you get to see so many shows in one week for so much cheaper than you would ever be able to see them in the future,” senior Jalyn Vander Wal said. “I got to see five shows. We saw Eurydice, which was cool, because it was fun to compare and contrast with our own.”

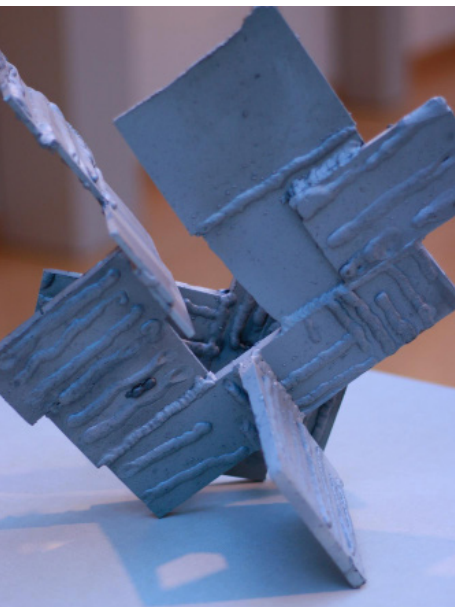
But above all, the festival is a time for students to get to know one another.

“This was my first time ever going,” senior Emily Currey said. “I enjoyed the Ryan competition. It was fun to watch my friends do it, and I think it went well myself...it was not what I expected, but I really enjoyed spending time with people from the theatre department and getting to know people better.”

Art professor’s final exhibition: ReCollection

Sarah Widener -- Staff Writer

David Versluis, an Art professor at Dordt College, made his final debut this past weekend. His final art gallery showcased work from his college days to recent years. In a talk to a gathering of around thirty at the gallery’s opening night, Versluis expressed gratitude for the opportunities and experiences gained through his time at Dordt. He also explained the history of several of his pieces, pointing out the gradual transition in his art style and mediums.



Photos by Sarah Widener

Movie review: *Glass* has shards of greatness

Harrison Burns -- Staff Writer

“This is not a cartoon. This is the real world.” Samuel L. Jackson’s character, Elijah Price (or Mr. Glass, as he introduces himself), utters this quote in *Glass* and explains one of the central themes of this realistic superhero deconstruction—a theme that both embraces and breaks from the comic book narrative. This dichotomy was first introduced in M. Night Shyamalan’s masterpiece *Unbreakable* (2000). After its secret sequel *Split* (2016), Shyamalan has returned to finish this unexpected trilogy.

If *Unbreakable* was the fantastic takeoff and *Split* the smooth middle, *Glass* is a bumpy landing that is certainly not without turbulence, but ultimately nails the middle of the runway in an ambitious conclusion.

From a technical standpoint, *Glass* is an expertly-crafted film; Shyamalan’s proficiency as a director has perhaps never been more on display. The cinematography and shot composition are crisp; the suspense builds with solid pacing; the score is excellent. The soundtrack incorporates themes from *Unbreakable* and *Split* as well as new melodies,

creating a mix of strong nostalgia and excitement.

Glass shows the long-awaited reunion between Bruce Willis’s David Dunn and Elijah Price, as well as James McAvoy’s disturbed Kevin, host of 24 personalities, now thrown into the midst of this surreal struggle. All three Shyamalan veterans bring their full acting prowess to their characters.

McAvoy received vast acclaim for his performance in *Split* and he has only improved in his incredible acting flexibility as he jumps between the diverse characters fighting for control of Kevin’s body. One scene in particular highlights his skill with a long take that continually circles the room returning to McAvoy as a new personality with each turn: a breathtaking acting feat.

Willis and Jackson deserve credit, as well, returning to their respected characters after almost 20 years since *Unbreakable*. They are immediately recognizable and relaxed in their aged roles.

Shyamalan melds these characters in a satisfying and intriguing plotline with many wonderful character interactions. Sarah

Paulson’s Dr. Ellie Staple only adds to the mystery as she brings the cast of characters together.

The story is a gripping narrative that keeps the audience engaged with many twists and conflicts. But the film is not without its faults. While *Unbreakable* and *Split* are focused character studies, *Glass* is primarily propelled by its plot, meaning crucial character development is sometimes constrained or ignored.

While Shyamalan can get away with this more than some movies because he had two prior films to build these characters, the lack of quiet character moments can be disappointing, especially because those moments are what made *Unbreakable* such a classic.

David Dunn, in particular, is a victim of this throughout the film, as his character never fully receives the limelight it deserves. That being said, there are hints of artful character development throughout the film, especially for Mr. Glass, and when watched in the context of the layered development of *Unbreakable*, these failings are much more forgivable.

Like most Shyamalan films, his mastery comes with his odd quirks, and his clunky

dialogue rears its head on occasion throughout *Glass*. On the other hand, these unnatural and bizarre lines can offer fascinating interactions with great actors wrestling with interesting ideas.

Glass is a film of big ideas—sometimes executed well, and other times feeling half-baked. This is no more clearly seen than in its controversial ending. I will not spoil the many twists, but suffice it to say, the ending subverts many expectations.

While the third act can be jarring, it is mostly successful with concluding the themes explored throughout this trilogy. It does not end as the comic book would, but that is exactly consistent with the realistic superhero story Shyamalan set out to tell.

While the question of how successful the ending was at executing the ideas it plays with will certainly be debated, the strange journey of the film is without a doubt entertaining, engaging and deserving of a watch, especially for those who have watched *Unbreakable*.

Happy birthday Fruited Plain

Emma Stoltzfus -- Staff Writer

coffee the morning of the café's birthday party.



Photo by Emma Stoltzfus

Music fills the small room, the bass so strong at times you can feel each strum vibrating in the air, floor and the chosen beverage in your hand.

It's the Fruited Plain Café's ninth birthday.

Laremy De Vries opened the Fruited Plain Café nine years ago in Sioux Center and refers to it as his second child. "Though the Fruited Plain is less of a dependent than it was as a one-year-old," he admits.

De Vries describes working at a coffeeshop as his fallback plan through the years. He worked at a coffeeshop in high-school, helped start the "Humble Bean Coffee House" in what is now the Terrace room next to the Grille and managed a coffee shop in Maryland.

Many of the decorations in the Fruited Plain were rescued from the trash. De Vries points out a large wooden stump that he found and sanded down to become a side table, a windmill painting that now sits next to a piano in the corner, and a large map of south America that used to hang in a Dordt classroom. They, and many pieces like them, give the café a unique style.

A group of older men and women pack around a round wooden table and laugh as they enjoy

"At any given time, 30 percent of the people here go to our church." De Vries said.

Dordt students, too, take advantage of the Fruited Plain and its quiet back room as a place to study.

"The Dordt crowd is mostly after classes and on Tuesdays," said Dordt junior Anneliese Donstad, who works at the café, "you know, to come and get their \$2 drinks."

For the birthday celebration, people and music filled the Fruited Plain filled to celebrate. From eight to midnight, local musicians like Noah Diest, The Aircraft, The Ruralists and Gopher Broke played original and cover songs in the Back Back.

The café often hosts music events with local artists like this, but this time each act concluded by wishing the Fruited Plain a happy birthday.

No one can predict what the next nine years will hold for the Fruited Plain, but De Vries is ready for anything.

"A lie that I tell myself is that I want routine and I just want normal," he said. "If I wanted routine and normal, I would sell insurance or something."

Dordt students participate in Prairie Grass Film Challenge

Garth Van Donselaar -- Chief Editor

2019 marked the 13th year of the Prairie Grass Film Challenge (PGFC), which is hosted annually by Dordt's Digital Media department.

Participants are giving a set prop, line of dialog, character and genre they must incorporate in their film. They have 48 hours to write, shoot, edit and submit their film. There are three categories for participants, high school, college, and post-college.

"We started it thinking 'hey, this will be fun,'" challenge creator and digital media professor Mark Volkers said, "sometimes I'm just amazed that we've been at it this long."

During the first year of the challenge, the awards ceremony was held in the De Yager Student Activity Center. Subsequent ceremonies were held in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. The Awards Ceremony is now a formal event—a contrast to the first year, where attendees wore t-shirts and jeans.

"[We] didn't know what we were doing and just sort of winged it," Volkers said, "and we thought, 'Oh, that's cool, we made it through a year. Let's try a second year.'" It was not until the fifth year when Prairie Grass officially became an annual event.

Due to the challenge's time restrictions, the team behind PGFC have not been the only ones resorting to winging it.

"You can definitely tell if a team is prepared or not," senior Hayden Veurink said. This year marked his fourth time completing PGFC with various teams. Veurink's first two years were not well-organized, but he said it got better with time.

"Filmmaking is all about taking the extra time to do things that might seem easy," Veurink said.

As for the challenge itself, Veurink enjoys the opportunity of working on a team to tackle the project. This year he joined a team lead by Ben Kuiper, a 2018 graduate from Dordt college who took the challenge for the eighth time this year.

"I'm never as productive as I am in Prairie Grass," Kuiper said. "Whatever problems may come up, it's amazing to take them head-on and make something everyone can be proud of."



Photo by Courtney Dolieslager
Pictured (L to R): Ladd Wielenga, Jacob Koehler (2018), and Eric Rowe (2017)

Both Veurink and Kuiper are digital media majors, but the challenge has attracted others outside of the filmmaking profession, such as senior business major Jordan Knight.

"I first did it because there was a friend that asked me to," she said. "I was a freshman in college and wanted to try new things." The challenge sounded like fun to Knight, and she thought it would be a good opportunity to work with other people.

This year will be Knight's third year participating. She's enjoyed the opportunity to try something new.

"I think that it's a really good program," Knight said. "It introduces people who probably aren't interested in film into film."

Professor Volkers acknowledges this aspect of the challenge, as well, and notes how newcomers who have never made a film before have as good of a chance of winning as more experienced filmmakers.

The filmmaking part of the challenge was completed on January 19th, and now participants wait until the awards ceremony on February 22nd to find out if they are a winner. The ceremony is free, family-friendly and open to the public.

Record-breaking egg shows the power of social media

Sam Landstra -- Staff Writer

By now we've all seen it. Or at least 51.3 million of us have.

In just ten days, the Instagram account titled @world_record_egg cracked the record for most likes on a single Instagram post, shattering the previous record of 18 million held by Kylie Jenner's announcement of the birth of her daughter, Stormi. Before Jenner, Beyoncé found herself at the top with her 2017 pregnancy announcement that garnered 11.3 million likes.

However, what separates @world_record_egg from its predecessors is that its picture wasn't posted by social media titans running verified accounts, curating their pictures to absolute perfection. Rather, @world_record_egg simply posted a picture of a speckled tan egg with a caption reading "Let's set a world record together and be the most liked post on Instagram. Beating the current world record held by Kylie Jenner (18 million)! We got this #LikeTheEgg #EggSoldiers #EggGang."

Other Instagram accounts such as @theworldrecordnut and @world_record.hen have attempted to ride the coattails of the egg's momentum but fell short.

I don't think that anyone saw this coming. Avid social media users know that accounts such as @world_record_egg pop up rather frequently,

attempting to break various like, favorite, or retweet records. When I first heard of the egg January 11, it was still millions of likes away from Kylie Jenner's record. Although I liked the picture, I did not expect to hear of it again.

Nonetheless, through a collective effort from the Instagram community that had users sharing the post on their stories and tagging their friends in the comments, @world_record_egg became a phenomenon. Exhibiting true sportsmanship, Kylie Jenner even joined in on the fun by posting a video of herself cracking an egg on the hot California pavement with the caption, "Take that little egg."

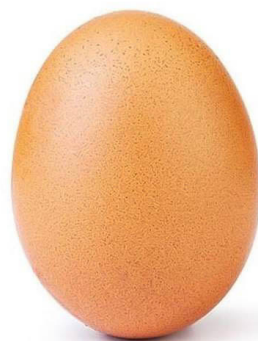
@world_record_egg's rise to fame serves as an example of the ability social media wields to unite complete strangers around a common cause. Albeit many of these causes are largely trivial, some push for powerful and necessary social change.

Movements, such as the "Me Too" campaign and "Black Lives Matter," have found social media as an effective breeding ground for gaining traction and relevancy. Since Alyssa Milano's tweet from October 2017, where Milano asked her followers to reply with "me too" if they were ever a victim of sexual harassment or abuse, #MeToo has exploded with countless individuals coming forward to tell their stories. #BlackLivesMatter, from

its inception in 2013, has been used nearly 30 million times on Twitter (as of May 1, 2018) as a method of highlighting injustices done to people of color.

Say what you like about how social media is oversaturated with people attempting to

capitalize on the egg's popularity--it's true. But let's not forget that the same phenomenon that allowed @world_record_egg to go viral also gave a voice to the voiceless in pursuit of a better, more equal world.



Contributed Photo

Opinion: Dordt Instagram pages are bad; don’t @ me

Garth Van Donselaar -- Chief Editor



Contributed Photo

For the past handful of years, Dordt students have been seeking an internet medium to use for discussion, promotion and sharing of topics relevant amongst themselves.

One of the first examples was using the forum website Reddit. A subreddit (forum) called r/ Dordt was created, but never took off, as there are only 25 posts on it. All but one being over four years old.

Facebook has also been used to try to build online interactions, with pages such as various Dordt Secret Admirers pages, Humans of Dordt, and Dordt Confessions pages which were also on Twitter. All of these pages had success, but suddenly stopped posting, probably due to the admins getting burned out.

To date, the most successful Dordt forum was on YikYak, an app where users could post and could interact with each other in a certain range. YikYak’s success spread to Dordt, where ideas, complains, and memes were regularly shared.

Unfortunately, a series of poor decisions made by YikYak’s creators lead the app to be shut down in May of 2016. Since then, attempts have been made to claim the popularity of YikYak.

Enter the Instagram pages.

The first one to spring up is Dordt Pranks, a page dedicated to showing off various pranks on campus. The three rules in the description of the page are: “can’t hurt anyone,” “can’t ruin possessions” and “can’t create a massive mess.”

Granted, these rules are followed loosely at best by the page’s admins, who have received criticism for their spotlighting of pranks. Dead animals in Covenant Hall, stolen cookie jars from The Commons and stolen Christmas trees are all featured on the page. Cookie jars have now been removed from The Commons as a result.

Admittedly, I give Dordt Pranks a little bit of pass, as there are good pranks showcased, but there are dangerous possibilities which may result.

My biggest gripe with other Instagram pages is the lack of good content. While I get an occasional chuckle from the humor or originality of Dordt Pranks, other pages struggle to do so, such as Dordt Memes.

Dordt Memes doesn’t seem to grasp the simple concept of what makes a meme a meme. Their original content takes a picture of a random Dordt student and slaps a crappy caption on the image.

Instead of taking a popular meme from a website known for their meme origins, such as Reddit or 4chan and putting a Dordt spin on it, Dordt Memes tries to force these pictures of random students as established meme formats.

Additionally, Dordt Memes is too lazy to properly make the meme well, so they simply put the caption on top of the image, meaning the audience sees the punchline first before the setup. It’s the opposite of how comedy works.

A proper reaction meme would have a caption in a separate white space above the picture. This is so the audience can read the caption, and then see the punchline in the form of the reaction pictured.

As for the captions, they are of typically of the lowest quality. One caption reads, “when a guy tries to mansplain your major to you,” on a picture of a girl looking annoyed. As a generic jab at politically correct culture, it’s terribly unfunny.

Since Dordt Memes is incapable of making good content themselves, they also accept submissions from others. One submission uses the Distracted Boyfriend format, with the boyfriend labeled as “Dordt College,” the girlfriend as “Northwestern College,” and the other girl as “University.”

It doesn’t make sense. Why would the girlfriend of Dordt be Northwestern in this context? If just “college” was written instead it would be a bit better, but this isn’t the case. Instead, we have a meme that is equally frustrating and nonsensical as it is bad.

Unfortunately, Dordt Memes isn’t the only Dordt meme page on Instagram. There is also Zesty Dordt Memes, which is thankfully better than Dordt Memes. Unlike the latter, the former has a grasp on meme structure.

A handful of posts on Zesty Dordt Memes are admittedly funny, especially when they are more Dordt specific. Few are mind-numbingly infuriating like Dordt Memes, although most posts ride a middle ground.

Barking up a similar tree, there’s another Instagram page called Dordt Starter Packs. This page has three posts, each appearing on January 20 and within an hour of each other. To sum up this page, I decided to put in as much effort as they did.

It’s bad.

While Dordt Starter Packs (hopefully) remains inactive, both of the meme pages are desperation clawing for attention, each following a significant number of people as opposed to those who follow them.

I know I’m giving free publicity undeservingly to these pages. In return, I expect them to make better efforts and content for their pages. Dordt is a quality school, and it deserves quality memes.

Van Dam sentenced

Joshua Meribole -- Staff Writer

Curtis Van Dam has been sentenced to spend 60 years in a state prison by Judge District Judge Steven Andreasen on January 11.

He will be required to serve at least 32.5 in prison before being eligible to be on parole. He received 15 years for the federal charges and 60 years for the state charge. Van Dam would first serve his federal sentence and then serve his state sentence.

Garth Van Donselaar, who was present at the court case, described the mood as tense and the room as packed. Parents affected by what had happened read victim statements describing what their children went through, the lack of trust they felt, and the pain they felt.

It has been over a year since Van Dam was accused of sexually exploiting children at Sioux Center Christian School.

In a plea agreement with the state, Van Dam pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse in the second degree, five counts of sexual abuse in the third degree, and one count of sexual exploitation by a school employee.

In 2017, Van Dam faced a total of 140 charges. Of those charges 103 were felonies. But a plea was reached so that minor victims did not need to testify.

Although Van Dam has been sentenced to jail, for many of his victims and the community members closely related to the issue the story is far from over.

Professor Mark Christians, who teaches psychology, says that the trauma people affected face is a like a “giant boulder that has been dropped in a lake and the effects of the trauma can ripple out for a long time for the person directly affected by the trauma and also to friends and family who are close to the victim”. Victims of sexual abuse may have problems dealing with fear and anxiety and relationships afterwards. Victims can also face problems with self-worth.

“It’s not an easy process, it could take months and years,” says Professor Christians.

He ended with saying that “there is an opportunity to walk along side people” and to help a community heal.

Dordt dance duels it out

Evangeline Colarossi -- Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

Three Dordt teams opposed Northwestern College on Wednesday, January 23 in men and women’s basketball—and a college dance team duel.. Unfortunately, all three Dordt teams were defeated.

Halftime of the men’s basketball game saw the Dordt dance team’s first duel of the competition season. Northwestern’s team performed first, followed by Dordt. Northwestern won by 2.25 points, with a score of 69.25-67.00.

“The first competition of the season is always nerve-wracking,” said sophomore Ashley Zwart, team captain, “but it’s always good to get it out of the way and get our heads in the game for the rest of the competition season. It’s always hard to lose, but I think it got our team

fired up and ready to make improvements for the rest of the season.”

In the following four weeks, the dance team will face five competitions. These include the GPAC competition in Hastings and the NAIA Nationals Qualifier at Midland. If Dordt qualifies for Nationals, they will attend the NAIA Nationals competition March 7-9 in Davenport, IA.

The NAIA scoring system for competitive dance ranks teams by their point averages for all of their competitions. Dordt is currently ranked 14th in the nation after their first competition. The top 12 ranking teams will qualify for nationals.

Dordt’s next competition is hosted by Concordia College this Saturday, February 2. There are team 14 members this season, and eight will be performing at the Concordia Invite. The team has been practicing and revamping their routine to enhance their strengths and build up their endurance.

“Although this dual didn’t have the outcome we were initially hoping for,” said Zwart. “We learned a lot about our team and the things we need to start working on to make sure we are successful the rest of the season.”need to start working on to make sure we are successful the rest of the season.”

Student Government gains new chairwoman in Staci Seaman

Tess Hemmila -- Staff Writer

At the end of the fall semester, Student Government had to say farewell to their chairwoman Senior Megan Van Den Berg. As the Student Government Chair, she was the face of Student Government and was in charge of planning and running their weekly meetings in Kuyper Loft. Van Den Berg is currently student teaching in California, meaning she is unable to maintain her position as Student Government Chair.

In her place, Van Den Berg handed off her duties to junior Staci Seaman. Seaman has seamlessly taken on Van Den Berg’s role and is already settling in to her new position as Student Government Chair.

The 15 remaining members of student government continue to meet regularly to discuss student concerns, to represent the student body in meetings with Dordt faculty, and to approve clubs on campus.

We asked Staci to talk about student government and her transition into her new position:

What is the purpose of student government? In the Constitution, our purpose is listed as this: “to pass information from the students to the faculty, staff, and administration, and vice versa, in order to promote positive communication and interaction between all groups.” From this definition, I would say that the Student Government’s ultimate goal is to learn as much as they can about the campus and then share that information with the students.

What made you want to be the junior chair? Last year, I served as an RA on campus – and I knew that I wanted to still be involved on campus my junior year. When presented with the idea of Junior Chair, I jumped at the idea! I was involved in Student Government in high school, and was reminded of how much I enjoyed it. It was also such a blessing to be able to have a work-study position that allowed me to continue my involvement on campus and further develop my character and leadership skills.

What has it been like stepping into Megan’s position? Megan is recognized and loved by many for her commitment to fun and for her role as Student Government Chair! Megan

built a firm foundation across this campus and within Student Government. Because of her faithfulness, the transition of the workload was quite easy. However, there is no possible way that I will be able to “fill her shoes” and do SG exactly as Megan would, which is perfectly okay! Overall, I am beyond excited to work more with the Student Government members. Although I am still adapting to a new role, I am excited to see how I continue to learn and grow!

How do you think student gov is going to change, if at all? Overall, I think that Student Government will continue to do all that it has in the past. However, Megan was really big on creating better recognition for Student Government – and access for students to provide input. I think that this goal will continue to stay at the forefront, but I would like to see how Student Government can grow in its participation; as I would love to see more people become involved next year! Also, I would like to continue to build leadership and community in and among the members – as well as broadening it to Dordt’s campus.

What would you say to anyone looking to be on student government? DO IT! I love working on Student Government because I get to have conversations with faculty and administration, I get to share my voice in committee meetings, and I get to bring student concerns to the spotlight. Though nothing is perfect, I like to be a part of Dordt’s commitment to excellence! In order to strive for this goal, Dordt needs students to share their voice by giving honest feedback and sharing information with their peers.

What can students do to help student government, even if they’re not on the board? Drop by our office (Tuesday mornings 11:00-1:30), shoot us an email, or talk to one of the members in the hallway! We want to hear your thoughts about anything and everything! Each week, we meet with faculty or administration to discuss certain topics (i.e. parking, finances, wifi, housing, facilities, food, new buildings, etc). So if you have input – we want to hear it!

What upcoming events does student government have? On February 7th (Thursday), we will be having a Club Fair from 8:30-9:30pm in the Grille Area! Stop by to sign up for clubs, eat popcorn, play corn hole, and ask questions about Student Government!

Defenders fall to Northwestern in nail-biting finish

Caleb Pollema -- Staff Writer

With only seven games remaining on both the men and women’s basketball schedules for the 2018-2019 regular season, the Defenders faced an all familiar foe on Wednesday night—the Northwestern Red Raiders.

In the women’s game, Northwestern jumped out to an early 9-0 lead, but the Defenders finished the first quarter on a 12-7 run, closing the lead 16-12. However, Northwestern once again pulled ahead to take a 35-28 lead in the second half.

Dordt held tough in the second half and took a 70-69 lead in the final minutes of the game; however, several empty possessions ultimately cost the Defenders as Northwestern ended the game on an 8-0 run. The Red Raiders came away with the 77-70 victory.

“We had the 70-69 lead and we came up empty on three or four possessions in a row,” said Coach Harmsen. “That’s something that when you’re playing a great team that you can’t have happen.”

Despite the loss, the Defenders are still poised to finish the end of the conference slate strong with four of their final six games against teams in the bottom half of the GPAC.

The Dordt men were also challenged on

Wednesday night by Northwestern and fell by a final score of 89-80.

The Red Raiders got out to a 24-7 lead midway through the first half and that was simply a margin that the Defenders could not overcome as Northwestern kept the lead for the rest of the game.

Zach Bussard led the Defenders with 19 points and seven rebounds. Chad Barkema added 17 points and six rebounds.

Northwestern held Dordt’s offense in check by holding the Defenders to only a 38 percent shooting rate throughout the night.

In turn, the Defenders could not stop the hot-shooting Red Raiders who shot a 54 percent rate during the evening.

“Tonight we couldn’t get stops,” said Coach Van Haaften. “Northwestern made shots and I just didn’t think we were great tonight. We weren’t tough enough tonight to get the stops we needed. Northwestern can spread the floor—they have five shooters on the floor at all times. We have to take advantage around the basket—Zach Bussard had a good game in the paint but we didn’t shoot the ball well as a team tonight.”

With the loss, the Defenders fell to 15-9 and 7-7 in GPAC play.

Both the men’s and women’s teams are eager for the rest of the season and the opportunity to



Contributed Photo

compete in the postseason.

“We can beat any team that we play,” said sophomore guard Jesse Jansma. “We just can’t lay an egg the rest of the way.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams will look to bounce back this Wednesday at Concordia.

The women’s game will tip at 6 p.m. and the men’s game is set for an 8 p.m. start.

The Defenders will return to the DeWitt on Saturday against the Doane Tigers. The women’s game will start at 2 p.m. followed by the men’s game at 4 p.m.

Men’s volleyball looks to serve up wins in new season

Benjamin Boersma -- Staff Writer



Photo by Sawyer Strelnieks

The Dordt men’s volleyball team hosted Graceland University last Saturday in their first two home games of the season. In spite of several hard-fought sets, Dordt lost both matches with 3-0 set scores.

“Graceland is a unified team,” said Coach Chad Hanson. “We have a lot of young players, and some of them need to grow in their experience.”

Of the twenty students on the team, 14 are freshmen or sophomores.

Senior outside hitter Ben Tiemersma led the team in kills last season and continued to lead the team on offense. He came into this season averaging 2.57 kills per set. He had 11 kills in both of last Saturday’s matches, giving him an average of 3.67 kills per set.

“I thought the games went pretty well,” said

Tiemersma. “Despite the loss there was plenty of growth from our team. Overall, it was fun just being back out on the court.”

Dordt last played Graceland twice in 2017. The first match was in March, while the second was in April. Graceland won both matches with set scores of 3-2 and 3-0 respectively.

“The team continues to get better every season,” said Tiemersma. “New guys who come in are willing to accept the roles given to them and contribute to the program.”

The Defenders will travel to Ottawa, Kansas, this Friday. They will be taking on the Ottawa University Braves at 7:00 that evening.

“I look forward to seeing the guys grow in trusting their teammates,” said Hanson. “There’s some great volleyball ahead in this season.”



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Super Bowl LIII: old vs. new

Sam Landstra -- Staff Writer

When Tom Brady and the New England Patriots won their first Super Bowl against the St. Louis Rams on February 3, 2002, Sean McVay was only a sophomore in high school. Fifteen years later, those same Rams, now located in Los Angeles, hired McVay as the youngest head coach in NFL history at 30 years, 11 months, and 19 days.

This week, McVay’s Rams will be busy gearing up for their matchup against the Patriots in Super Bowl 53. Much has changed since their last Super Bowl meeting.

Tom Brady, the then wide-eyed second-year quarterback is now 41 and in his 18th season alongside long-time head coach of the Patriots, Bill Belichick. Despite rumors of an eroding relationship a year ago, the combo remains intact. A peek in Brady’s trophy case shows five rings from eight Super Bowl appearances, as well as four regular season MVP’s.

These all-time accolades, however, have not stopped experts from predicting the downfall of the Patriots. Citing Brady’s age and a lack of talented positional players, not many people predicted the Patriots would get this far, especially after a rocky 1-2 start to their season.

While it may seem like a mistake to doubt Brady, a look into the past reveals that nearly all quarterbacks, even of Hall of Fame caliber, experience severe regression upon reaching the age of 40.

A 39-year-old Peyton Manning threw almost twice as many interceptions than touchdowns in his final season. Brett Favre, at age 41, ranked third to last in total QBR during the 2010 NFL season.

Yet Brady and Belichick appear to have evaded Father Time yet again. According to Pro Football Focus, Brady ranked as the fifth-highest rated quarterback this season, leading the Patriots to average the fourth most points per game. While, defensively, the Patriots have struggled to slow down opposing teams, allowing 354 yards per game, they never seem to break, given their seventh-ranked scoring defense.

It appears that the Patriots have used their doubters as motivators too. “You’re too ***** old! You’re too old!” Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman yelled at Tom Brady in the AFC championship game against the Chiefs following a 29-yard touchdown pass by Brady.

In a postgame interview after the AFC divisional game against the Los Angeles Chargers, Brady said, “I know everybody thinks we suck... so we’ll see.”

Perhaps the only way the Patriots will be able to prove wrong their naysayers will be



Contributed Photo

by defeating the Rams, who stand as a stark contrast to the Patriots’ methodical, run-heavy offense with a high-flying, explosive style of play.

Headed by quarterback Jared Goff and running back Todd Gurley, the Rams’ offensive success has earned them comparisons to “The Greatest Show on Turf,” a name given to the record-breaking offense of the 1999-2001 St. Louis Rams.

McVay isn’t the only one who brings youth to his team. Only in his third season, a win this Sunday would make Goff the second youngest quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl. The 17-year age difference between Brady and Goff marks the largest in Super Bowl history.

On the other side of the ball, the Rams defense underwhelms. It ranks 20th in points allowed during 2018 despite a star-studded defensive line featuring Aaron Donald and Ndamukong Suh.

Neither team’s path to the Super Bowl is without controversy however. The Rams were greatly aided by a blown pass interference call during the NFC Championship game against the Saints. The missed penalty forced the Saints to kick a field goal and gave the Rams enough time to push the game into overtime, where they won on a 57-yard field goal. The non-call prompted NFL players such as Saints tight end Benjamin Watson to publicly call out NFL Commissioner Rodger Goodell, asking him in a tweet to “lead by example”

Although not nearly as significant, the Patriots were granted a free 15 yards and a first down midway through the fourth quarter following a questionable roughing the passer penalty called on the Chief’s defensive end, Chris Jones.

Video evidence shows Jones’ hand just barely grazing the front of Brady’s facemask as the ball is thrown. The Patriots went on to score during the drive, rather than being put in an unfavorable 3rd and 7th situation.

Both the Patriots and Rams are pushing these distractions to the side, focusing on what will be a classic matchup of young versus old.

◆ The Back Page ◆

Uber and its non-existence in Northwest Iowa

Caleb Pollema-- Staff Writer

Uber has recently expanded to Spirit Lake, near Okoboji. What are the benefits of Uber in a rural area like Sioux Center?

While bigger cities across the United States rely on the ride-share company as a means of transportation, Northwest Iowa has not caught on to the trend.

According to Uber’s website, if an individual needed a ride from Dordt’s campus to the Foreign Candy Company outlet in Hull, it would cost the rider nearly \$17 to make the trip.

Trips to other locations further from the region would cost even more money. A trip to Morningside College in Sioux City would cost an individual just over \$60 and trip to the Sioux Falls airport from Dordt would cost nearly \$90.

Uber’s website states that the nearest city covered by Uber to Sioux Center is Sioux Falls. This explains the significant cost of using the company as transportation in Sioux Center.

Even though Sioux Center is much smaller

compared to cities like Sioux Falls, some students said that driving for Uber would be a profitable job.

“I believe that it would be a great way to provide an additional source of income,” said Dordt sophomore Jared Gross. “It would be another way for a person to easily have a second job and bring in more money.”

Not only would Uber provide an additional source of income to drivers, but also provide easy access for students needing a ride to and from various locations.

“It would be a great way to get a ride to Walmart especially if you didn’t have a car,” said Dordt sophomore Kate Wnek.

While many people believe that the service would be a great addition to the economic life and well-being of the city, others disagree.

“I just wouldn’t use it because I already have a car,” said AJ Bosscher, a sophomore at Dordt.

Even if the riding service were to be expanded to Sioux Center, it might still be easier for students at Dordt to borrow a friend’s car.

We want you to be heard

Janelle Cammenga and Garth Van Donselaar -- Chief Editors

The Dordt Diamond is a place to tell true stories, whether it’s those of Dordt students, community members, Americans or simply our fellow human beings. When doing so, we aim to get all perspectives on the issues at hand.

But sometimes we don’t succeed. And if we don’t, we want you to let us know.

Write us a letter.

If we’ve passed over a current issue you feel strongly about, fill in the gaps. If you’re an expert on a topic we’ve discussed, share your insights. If you disagree with an article, let us know your perspective. Respond to other letters

to the editors. Respond to things you’ve been hearing in the community.

The point is: This is your space. Use it.

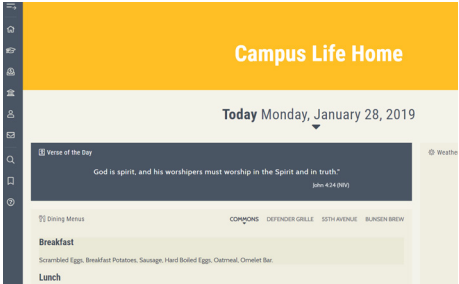
We are happy to present the Diamond as a platform for respectful and insightful public discourse, and look forward to hearing from you.

Depending on how many letters you and those around you send, we may not be able to publish all of them every issue. That said, we will strive to select letters that will present a wide array of perspectives.

You can email your letters to diamond@dordt.edu. If we receive letters before the Monday of publication week, we will review them in time for the Diamond’s Thursday publication.

DCC changes once again

Connor Van Hulzen -- Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

Early this fall Dordt College Central, better known as DCC, underwent some changes. After a few weeks of the occasional broken link, Computer Services worked to fix the problems until the technical portion of the website was up to standards. After the technical issues, the design aspect needed to be dealt with.

For all of the fall semester, DCC was colored in a neon yellow and a light blue/green. Now, just weeks into spring semester, DCC has been given an overhaul. Gone are the colors reminiscent of Easter, replaced with Dordt College’s black and yellow.

The new colors reflect Dordt’s announcement of a new logo. In the new Dordt University logo the yellow of choice is Pantone 1235C, which now appears on DCC instead of the older bright yellow.

Mark Dadisman is the Web Design and Development lead at Dordt. He explained the reason for the change, saying, “The marketing team decided to change the gold colors because it was really hard to get athletics apparel with the correct yellow.

People didn’t like the old DCC color scheme,

which is understandable, because I didn’t like it either. When I finally got around to changing it, I changed the website to use the Dordt University color scheme.”

The change may better align the website with Dordt’s brand, but there are some who wish it had never been changed at all. “I don’t like it because I was used to the other colors,” said freshman David Gagliardi, “The new colors look weird to me.”

Sophomore Jacquelyn Geels disagreed. She said, “I think that it obviously coordinates better with Dordt’s colors, and the blue that it was felt vibrant and a little out of place. This feels a little calmer and more professional.”

In addition to the color change, a welcome page was added and the weather tab on the home tab was improved.

“The welcome page was originally just for prospective students, but there was an issue with some students not being able to see it because they were taking a college course in high school,” said Dadisman, “They were technically already students, but then they would go through the admissions process and not be able to see it. We decided to just make it available to everybody so that those prospective students could see it during the admissions process.”

The preparations for the name change from Dordt College to Dordt University will be numerous and will take a lot of time to be fully implemented. Those changes are sure to be contentious in one form or another. The debate about the changes to DCC follows the uproar surrounding the unveiling of the new University logo and will surely be followed by more debates about the changes to come.

10 Year Challenge sparks controversy for future technology

Yee Lim Shin-- Staff Writer

Just like any other internet challenge that pops up on social media, the #10YearChallenge quickly trended, starting off the year with throwback pictures of people from a decade ago.

The challenge was simple. Upload a picture of yourself from 2009 along with another picture from 2019. People shared these images on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for everyone to see. Even celebrities like Reese Witherspoon, Ellen DeGeneres, and Mariah Carey all jumped on the #10YearChallenge craze.

For the last couple of weeks, Facebook filled with countless images of people growing up, glowing up, or aging, along with funny or serious captions on their post.

“I had mixed feelings about it,” said Abby Barrientos, a freshman at Dordt. “Like one part of me was like ‘oh cute, look at them, they’ve grown up!’ and the other one was like ‘this is so dumb, why are we doing this.’”

This light-hearted challenge turned into a much bigger debated problem when Kate O’Neill, a technology consultant posted a tweet that hinted the images posted from this challenge could be

used to train facial recognition technology on age progression and age recognition.

“There absolutely are people who have written machine learning software where you feed it photographs of someone and then the same person five years later,” said Professor Nick Breems, a computer science professor, “and if you do that enough times the software can figure out how to age people.”

The 10 Year Challenge created on Facebook gave an endless supply of images for a machine learning algorithm to sort through and figure out what a person would look like in the future.

Facebook’s 10 Year Challenge, whether it was planned or trended just because people enjoy uploading photos of themselves, brought on something that is much bigger than an algorithm that may figure out age progression and recognition.

Is the 10 Year Challenge something we should be genuinely concerned about, despite the fact it is only a small section of technology? Is it just a mere trend that will pass away? Perhaps we should instead focus on the much bigger problems regarding technology that affects our everyday lives.



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